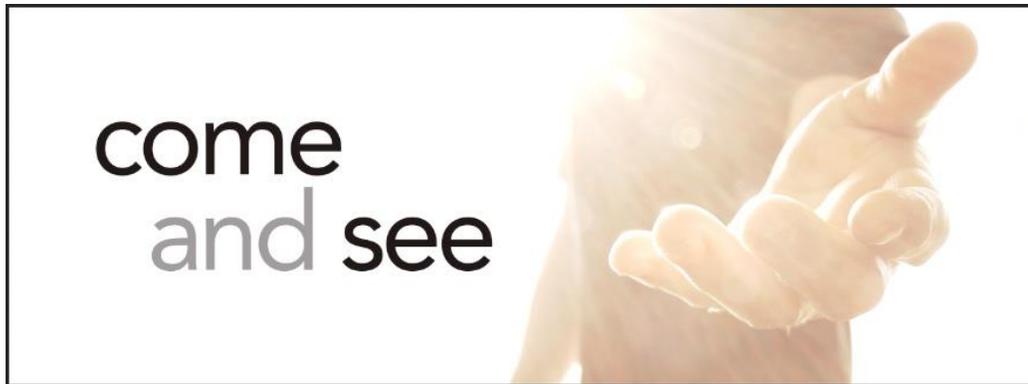


Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series: Come and See

It's the power of an invitation; to a long-awaited wedding, a party with good friends, a dinner with the new neighbor. Do you remember how it felt? To feel welcome, to be included, to join in with the celebration and connection. In the gospel of John, the life-changing invitation to follow Jesus and to find new life is as simple as, "come and see." Come and see the long-awaited Messiah that everyone is talking about; come and see and witness a life-saving miracle; come and see that the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Join us this May as we reflect on the power of a single invitation, how we have experienced transformation through community with Christ at Revolution, and who we need to invite next. Won't you come and see?

Message Description:

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world! Jesus tells his disciples that if they want to be great in the kingdom of heaven, then they must become like a little child; that is, one without status, power, or might in the world. This is not the only time Jesus centers people who have been under-valued and cast-aside, revealing that the welcome and care of the "little ones" is vital to the mission of Jesus Christ and his church. We all have a role to play in nurturing the faith of our young ones; how is God calling you to serve?

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 18:1-6, 10-14; 19:13-15

Additional Resources:

Consider an alternate study on the show "The Chosen" by watching season 1 together and discussing each episode during your time together. Episodes can be watched for free on The Chosen app or at <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen/watch?vid=S2:E7&ap=true>.

Check out a trailer for season 1 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1-FoFj8Jbo>

Reach out to Rachel for a study guide on season 1 with teaching notes from the Rev. Dr. C. Chappell Temple!

Questions Related to This Week's Teaching:

1. What are the earliest memories you have of church? How old were you when you first attended church?
2. How important is the welcome, care, advocacy, and nurture of our children to the mission of the church?
3. What other groups in our world today might be considered "little ones" without status, power, or voice?
4. What can we learn from the faith of our kids?
5. What role could you serve in nurturing the faith of our children, youth, and little peeps [teach, volunteer, care, bless, invite]?

Going Deeper:

Read Mark 2:1-12

The story of four friends who lower their friend down on a mat to meet Jesus is a testimony of strong faith and love. They knew Jesus could help their friend, and they knew they had to get him there.

I often think of this story as a powerful illustration for raising up the children of our church; the faith of the adults around them must carry them to Jesus. The love and acts of the adults in our church must invite our kids to come and see. Whether the children in our church are baptized or not, as part of one body, we understand that we each have a role to play in forming the faith of our young people.

- Upon reading this story again, what stands out to you differently?
- Who are some of the first people who influenced your faith in Jesus Christ? How did their faith "carry" you to where you are today?
- The friends in this story seem confident and determined. Do you feel this way about serving any of the "little ones" in our world today who are central to the mission of Jesus? Why or why not?

For a thoughtful reflection on our United Methodist understanding of infant baptism, but really more importantly on the role of the community in raising up our kids in faith, check-out:

<https://firebrandmag.com/articles/a-letter-to-my-infant-son-on-the-morning-of-his-baptism?rq=cambro%20wright>

Closing in prayer:

- Continue to pray that God would place a name, or multiple names, on your heart in the coming weeks that you might invite to "come and see" the life-changing grace of Jesus Christ.
- Ask, who in your life needs the support, welcome, and love of a church community like Revolution?
- Ask, who in your life needs to experience freedom? Who in your life is longing for a change?
- Ask, how might we help you invite them to come and check out how God is working in our midst right now?